
NATURAL RESOURCE USES (NRU) SUBCOMMITTEE

**GALVESTON BAY COUNCIL
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY**

11 June 2021

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR Cherie O'Brien, TPWD	SUBCOMMITTEE VICE CHAIR Philip Smith, GBF
NRU COORDINATOR Lindsey Lippert, GBEP	

Members/Participants Present

Galveston Bay Estuary Resilience Assessment

Erin Kinney of the Houston Advanced Research Center gave a presentation of the Estuary Resilience Assessment and solicited comments from the subcommittee (video of presentation available upon request).

Dredged Material Planning for Wetland Restoration

Todd Merendino of Ducks Unlimited gave a presentation to update the subcommittee on the status of the Dredged Material Planning for Wetland Restoration Project funded through the Texas Trustee Implementation Group (video of presentation available upon request). The project identifies priority locations, develops up to 60% design work, and prepares permit application packages for Beneficial Use of Dredge Material (BUDM) for marsh restoration at eight sites along the Texas coast. This project also coordinates efforts to prioritize sites and produce guidelines to restore currently degrading intertidal habitats.

Planning and Priorities for FY 2023 Funding

Five priorities were selected for the FY 2022 project selection cycle:

#	Priority	Summary
1	Habitat Acquisition	The continuation of land conservation efforts.
2	Enhancement of Existing or Ongoing Restoration/Conservation Efforts	Addressing the needs of completed or ongoing efforts that may need additional maintenance or support. This includes, but is not limited to, issues such as expansion of project footprints, post-construction erosion issues (such as a breach), additional capacity of nesting habitat, and intrusion of invasive species.
3	Benefit to Native Fish and Wildlife	Projects should benefit Federal and State Listed Species or Species of Greatest Conservation Need but can also benefit nongame fish and wildlife. Nongame fish and wildlife refers to all animals that

		have no legal hunting season; species that are not hunted like robins, lizards, armadillos, etc.
4	Brings Funding, Work Leverage, Multiple Goal Benefit to the Subcommittee	Efforts must be made to expand projects beyond the scope of GBEP dollars and promote collaboration and partnerships. Preferred projects should address and cite multiple goals of the "Protect and Sustain Living Resources" Action Plans or other organizations management plans (restoration, enhancement, etc.).
5	Project Urgency	Implementation of project is urgent (now or never). Applicants should state whether project is at risk for development, accelerated loss, loss of other funding or match, etc. along with the timeline for risk.

Project Proposal Timelines for FY 2023

The schedule for FY2022 project selection and development is as follows:

21 June 2021: Proposal form will be sent to stakeholders

21 July 2021: Proposal Deadline

19 August 2021: Proposals will be sent to Subcommittee for review

Projects selected will begin the contract initiation process in December 2021. FY 2023 funding will be available September 1, 2022, and able to be expended thru May 31, 2025.

As a reminder, GBEP is limited to partnering directly with state agencies and academia, local government, councils of government, and independent school districts. Nonprofit organizations **must secure** a pass-through with an organization mentioned above for projects. If you have any questions on this topic or need to determine your eligibility, please contact [Lindsey Lippert](#).

Other

NRU Project Updates

*Spreadsheet available on request.

Selection of A Presenter for Next Meeting - Deferred

Roundtable - None

Announcements - None